

Governance of innovation policy

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Addendum on valorisation

This addendum to the PhD thesis, in accordance with Article 23 of Section “Note on the Regulation Governing the Attainment of Doctoral Degrees” of the document regulation governing the attainment of doctoral degrees of Maastricht University aims to address the following five points in the document: relevance, target groups, activities/products innovation and schedule and implementation. As specific in the aforementioned official document, the addendum about valorisation does not form part of the dissertation and should not be assessed as part of the dissertation.

Relevance

The relevance of this thesis emanates from the fact that one size fits all approaches to policy issues are challenged in the last decades. The differences in economic performance of countries demand context-sensitive analyses. This context can be best studied in terms of political economy. However, in their recent book published in 2014, Borrás and Edler state that there is a gap in the literature in terms of systematically studying governance of innovation policy. The governance dimension of systems of innovation can benefit from a political economy approach that addresses ideas and interests of actors and institutionalised or non-institutionalised action-based constituents of policy success, continuity or change.

Target Groups

The target group of Chapter 2 is politicians in government, executive / administrative ministerial officials, and members of parliaments, academicians, high-level advisors or advisory groups, parliamentary support services personnel, journalists, societal actors who participate in societal consultation activities. The target group of Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 is policy makers especially in the field of eco-innovation, solar photovoltaics and organic photovoltaics energy technologies. The target group of Chapter 5 is policy makers and people from the “societal pentagon” as Jan Rotmans calls it: governments, companies, non-governmental organisations, knowledge institutes and intermediary mediators as individual citizens.

Activities / Products

For Chapter 2, the product is a policy governance template indicates those elements that would lead to desired R&I policy effectiveness (Appendix Figure 2.A.3.1 and Figure 2.A.3.2). For Chapter 3, the use of three themes of eco-innovation policy as a framework to study foundational elements of political economy to detect politics of purpose in different geographies (Section 3.1.1), for Chapter 4, the product is the OPV Global survey (Appendix 4.B) which can be used for other emerging technologies as well in order to analyse political economy aspects of emerging technologies. It covers a comprehensive set of 65 questions, provided in the appendix section of this thesis. In Chapter 5, the product is an interaction matrix between different types of innovation systems and related insights for policy instruments given in the related appendix section (such as (Appendix 5.A.3 and Table 5.A.4).

Innovation

The innovation of this thesis mainly relies on empirical studies that come with theoretical/analytical framework integration between policy economy analysis and systems of innovation approaches and the use of four different policy analysis styles (neo-positivist, critical-rationalist, forensic and argumentative). In their recently written book in 2014, Borrás and Edler state that there is a clear gap in the literature for governance of innovation policy. Particularly actor-based proximate political governance and argumentative call for further research need for a societal system of innovation are two innovations.

Schedule and Implementation

The implementation of the knowledge outcome of this thesis depends on the choices of policy makers. Each chapter provides insights on how policy designs can be approached from a political economy perspective. I hope that each contribution in this thesis can provide additional insights on already going policy efforts to shape effective innovation-related policies.

Concluding Discussion for the Valorisation Addendum

Chapter 2 provides insights for politicians in government, executive/administrative ministerial officials, members of parliaments, academics, high level advisory groups, parliamentary support services personnel, journalists, societal actors who participate in societal consultation activities to develop a governance template to bring about effective R&I policy. It points out the importance of interactions between socio-technical systems and socio-political systems. It is a call for

broadening our view in how to participate in modern governance of innovation policy.

Chapter 3 approaches eco-innovation with a global dimension and points out that international policy clash of domestically successful policies can happen. Internal to each policy relating to a global technology, there should be an international dimension that is sensitive to international coordination modes of varieties of capitalism to prevent conflicts (especially in international trade), such as the one that happened for the case of Solar PV between the EU and China. For Chapter 3, the use of three themes of eco-innovation policy as a framework to study foundational elements of political economy and to detect insights on politics of purpose in different geographies exemplifies the use of the framework as an important analysis tool in this manner.

Chapter 4 is relevant to policy makers especially in the field of emerging eco-innovation, organic photovoltaics and organic photovoltaics energy technologies. Internal to each policy relating to an emerging technology, there should be an international dimension that is sensitive to international coordination modes of varieties of capitalism to prevent conflicts at an earlier stage, not to repeat the international disputes as the one that happened for the case of Solar PV. It falls under forensic policy analysis revealing frames of policy recipients and can be a useful template for other emerging technologies.

Chapter 5 is an analytical and argumentative call for the need for further research, and a societal call; we all have a role, actually multiple roles, in innovation, in governing innovation and in governance of innovation policy. Our actions increase the variety of interactions amongst innovation systems where incessant types of innovation benefit from new grassroots purposes into which we can seek relevant participation in order to contribute into framing, formulating, implementation or adoption of solutions that are created to tackle with grand societal challenges.